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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation (OVERSEAS TELEPHONE)

DATE: June 30, 1954

SUBJECT: The Guatemalan Change of Government

PARTICIPANTS: The Honorable John E. Peurifoy, United States Ambassador
to Guatemala

Mr. Raymond G. Leddy, Office of Middle American Affairs

COPIES TO: ARA
DRA
Ambassy, Guatemala City

I spoke with Ambassador Peurifoy at 11:45 a.m. Washington time and informed him that Colonel Castillo Armas has arranged to arrive at San Salvador this afternoon in order to meet with Colonel Monzon at 4 p.m., and that he was proceeding from Managua. Further, that according to information from Ambassador Willauer in Honduras, Juan Cordoba Cernawas also proceeding to San Salvador in order to participate with Colonel Castillo Armas in the conference. Ambassador Peurifoy said he had just come from the Palace where he had been in conference with the new Military Junta and that he would pass this information back to them immediately.

Ambassador Peurifoy said that Colonel Monzon will fly to San Salvador this afternoon, leaving Guatemala City at 1 p.m. Guatemala time. He will be accompanied by two lawyers, Juan Ibarra and Eduardo Caceres Lenhoff, both are known to be strong anti-Communists and Caceres has been an anti-Communist deputy in the Congress. Ambassador Peurifoy said that the new group is doing everything possible at this time to eradicate the Communists from the Government and to close down all the Communist organizations; he wished to emphasize that the new group is taking very firm and complete measures, and is doing everything possible toward the end of eradicating the Communist influence. He said that he was somewhat concerned over the message from Managua this morning, which might indicate that there was some pressure from another quarter, which might be influencing Castillo Armas, and that any

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pressure on the new group in Guatemala is not necessary as they are acting one hundred per cent against the Communists.

Ambassador Pourifoy referred to his conversation earlier this morning with Mr. Holland, and the question of a cable to the OAS on the July 7 meeting scheduled for Rio de Janeiro. The Military Junta does not wish to send any cable until after the talks today, and it is unlikely at Colonel Monzon will be back from San Salvador until tomorrow. (The U.S. Air Attache's plane will be used to carry the Monzon party and will remain overnight in San Salvador in order to bring the party back to Guatemala).

With reference to the Inter-American Peace Committee, Colonel Monzon does not wish it to come to Guatemala at this time, if at all, and he has sent a message to the Mexican Foreign Office, so informing the Peace Committee.

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